

SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms fixed for setting up of benches of High Courts in the country;

(b) whether some state Governments have sent their proposals to the Union Government for setting up of benches of High Courts;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and location-wise; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) In its report, the Jaswant Singh Commission suggested the broad principles and criteria to be followed while deciding the question of expediency and desirability of establishment of a bench of a High Court away from the principal seat and the factors to be kept in view in selecting the venue of the said Bench. The report of the Commission was laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha on 20.4.87 and 21.4.87 respectively. The question of setting up of a High Court Bench is considered by the Central Government in the light of these principles and criteria as and when the proposal is received from the State Government, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court.

(b) and (c) No specific, complete proposal has been received from any State Government for establishing a permanent Bench of High Court away from its principal seat, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court, in keeping with the broad principles and criteria recommended by the Jaswant Singh Commission. However, the Government of West Bengal have sent a proposal with the consent of the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court for establishing a Circuit Bench of the High Court at Jalpaiguri in north Bengal.

(d) It is not possible to indicate the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard.

Setting up of Free Ports with Foreign Investment

3806. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government for setting up of the free ports with a view to boost the foreign investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The advisory Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Shri Raunaq Singh, Industrialist, to examine the desirability and feasibility of establishing a Free Port in India had submitted its report on the subject. The report has been examined and the Government has asked the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade to draw up an implementation model including likely changes in laws and rules, administrative framework and also various fiscal measures to enable the Government to take a policy decision.

Construction of By-pass Express way in Hyderabad

3807. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to assist the Andhra Pradesh Government for construction of an effective By-pass Express way to Hyderabad for quick movement of traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof and

(c) the measures taken for pending early financial assistance to the State Government Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) At present there is no proposal to construct a by-pass Express way around Hyderabad, However, for the quick movement of traffic, the four arms of National Highways radiating from Hyderabad for the reaches Experiencing traffic congestion have been proposed to be fourlaned. This proposal is at preliminary stage.

Reservations in Supreme Court and High Courts

[*Translation*]

3808. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether reservation is applicable for the SCs, STs, Women and other backward classes in the High Courts and the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons belonging to these categories working in the Supreme Court and the High Courts at present court-wise; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to implement reservation in Courts?